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Statement by the Swedish Government,
26 October, 1962:

The suddenly arising crisis around Cuba has brought into prominence the question fundamental to peace of the balance of power between the great powers. Certainly no one of the great powers wants war. But in the present state of international tension there is a risk that incidents as well as mistakes in the evolution of the intentions of the other side can lead to disastrous consequences for the entire world. It is therefore of the utmost importance that the situation should be kept under control and that all possibilities of averting the threat against world peace should be explored. Both the leading great powers have brought the conflict before the United Nations and both have declared themselves willing to enter into negotiations. The Secretary General of the United Nations is endeavouring to find out the possibilities of creating a basis for such negotiations. The Swedish Government gives its whole-hearted support to Secretary General U Thant's efforts to find a way to bring about a lessening of tension and initiate negotiations between the countries concerned. When the Government of the United States of America some time ago gave notice of certain restrictions in respect of shipping bound for Cuba the Swedish Government expressed in Washington the serious concern which was felt in this country about these plans. The measures which the Government of the United States has now decided to take involve the interception visit and search on the high seas of any vessel or craft proceeding towards Cuba. In view of this the Swedish Government wishes to refer to the generally recognized rule of international law - founded upon the principle of the freedom of the high seas - that warships of one state may not in peacetime interfere with the ships of other states on the high seas.